GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2892
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2016
Free/Subsidised Medicines
Karadi Shri Sanganna Amarappa;Kaswan Shri Rahul;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao;Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any schemes for providing free/ subsidised medicines to poor/BPL families in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the medicines bought for this purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether a number of complaints have been received by the Government with regard to expired medicines being issued to patients by some Government hospitals, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that such medicines are being sold illegally in the open market, if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such malpractices; and

(e) whether any guidelines has been issued from the DGCI to check the status of medicines?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Public Health being a state subject, the primary responsibility of free/ subsidised medicines to the people including poor/BPL families lies with the State/UT governments. Under the National Health Mission Free Drugs Service Initiative, financial and technical support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including for provision of essential drugs, free of cost in public health facilities based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. The state-wise approvals provided for drugs & supplies under NHM for financial years 2013-14 to 2015-16 is placed as Annexure −I

(c) to (e): Isolated cases of expired drugs have been reported in the country. State/U.T.-wise data on expired drugs cases reported and action taken thereon, as per information received from various States/U.Ts is enclosed as Annexure -II. The manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs are regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 through a system of Licensing and inspection. License for Manufacturing, sale and distribution of drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authority appointed by State Governments. The Licensees are

required to comply with the conditions of License as prescribed under the Rules. Some of the conditions of License to prevent use of expired drugs is as under:
â€¢ no drug shall be sold or stocked by the licensee after the date of expiration of potency recorded on its container, label or wrapper, or in violation of any statement or direction recorded on such container, label or wrapper.

â€¢ Manufacturers are to comply with the conditions of license and follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to ensure that the drugs manufactured by them are of standard quality.

â€¢ The licensee shall either in his own lab or in any other laboratory approved by the Licensing Authority test each batch of the raw material used by him for the manufacture of product and shall maintain records showing the particulars in respect of such tests.
State Licensing Authority are empowered to take action in case of any violation of above requirements.